

PARISH PROFILE

The Church of Saint Mark and All Saints

A welcoming Anglican community in Galloway Township, New Jersey

“All are welcome here — to worship, to belong, and to grow in faith together.”

Worldwide Anglican Communion

Diocese of New Jersey

Atlantic Convocation

Welcome to Saint Mark and All Saints

The Church of Saint Mark and All Saints is a warm, diverse congregation of more than 100 members gathered in Galloway Township, New Jersey. We are a family-like community bound by mutual support, genuine friendship, and a shared commitment to worship, learning, and service. Visitors often tell us the same thing after their first Sunday: they felt at home before the service even ended.

Our roots run deep. Though our parish was formally established in 1982, our congregation carries forward more than a century of Episcopal life in the greater Atlantic City area — two historic parishes, All Saints Church and Saint Mark's Church, whose people, traditions, and treasured furnishings live on within our walls today.

Our vision is simple: to be a hospitable, inclusive spiritual home where people of every generation and background can encounter Christ, grow in faith, and be sent out to serve our community with love.

This profile introduces who we are — our history, our worship, our ministries, and our hopes for the priest who will walk with us into our next chapter.

Our Story

From Two Parishes to One

Our history begins in 1879 with the founding of the Church of the Ascension in Atlantic City. In 1901, that congregation established the Chapel of the Transfiguration, which was completed in 1910 at 8 South Chelsea Avenue and dedicated as All Saints Church. Just a few years later, in 1904, the Church of the Ascension also planted the Mission of Egg Harbor Township and Absecon, in Pleasantville, New Jersey. Construction on that mission's building began in 1906, and upon its completion in 1907 at the corner of East Verona and Franklin Avenues, it was dedicated as Saint Mark's Church.

Both parishes thrived as active centers of worship and community for decades. But as Atlantic City and Pleasantville experienced population decline and demographic change from the 1950s through the 1970s, both congregations shrank while the cost of maintaining aging buildings grew. Recognizing both a shared challenge and a shared opportunity — the chance to pursue new mission work in the growing Galloway and Absecon areas — the two parishes made the decision to consolidate. In 1982, the Church of Saint Mark and All Saints was born.

Our Clergy Leadership

The Reverend Glenn Druce, previously Rector of Saint Mark's, became our first Rector and served from 1982 to 1998. Following an interim period with various clergy, the Reverend Lee Powers served as Vicar from 2001 to 2004. The Reverend George Dietrick served as Rector from 2005 to 2007, and the Reverend Mantelle Bradley from 2008 to 2016. The Reverend Terrence O'Connor, Jr. then served as Priest-in-Charge from 2016 to 2025. Today, our own congregation member, the Reverend Donald Caron, is serving in a "Supply Plus" role as we prepare to call our next Priest-in-Charge.

Our Building

Our church home at 429 South Pitney Road in Galloway was completed and dedicated in 1983. Set on more

than six acres of predominantly wooded land, the building is a contemporary, passive-solar structure arranged around an open courtyard. The eastern wing holds our nave and chancel; the northern wing our sacristy, meeting room, church office, and classroom; the western wing our parish hall; and the southern wing our main entrance, narthex, and choir room. A columbarium adjoins the eastern wing, and a garage and storage building stand near the west wing.

Many of the furnishings in our nave and chancel are treasured relics passed down from All Saints and Saint Mark's — our baptismal font, pipe organ, pulpit, altar, altarpiece, and twelve stained glass windows all carry forward the legacy of the parishes that came before us.

Our Community

Galloway Township sits in the northeast corner of Atlantic County and is, by area, the largest municipality in New Jersey. Our 2020 Census population of 37,813 makes for a diverse and affordable community, well served by a public school system of four elementary schools, one middle school, and access to three high schools. Galloway is also home to Stockton University, with more than 8,500 students, and residents have further access to Atlantic Cape Community College's Atlantic and Cape May County campuses.

Healthcare is close at hand through AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center's Mainland Campus, a 300-plus bed facility. Nature lovers will appreciate that Galloway lies within the New Jersey Pinelands National Reserve and is home to the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge.

Our location offers easy access to a wide range of recreation and culture. The beaches and waterways of Brigantine, Ventnor, and Margate, along with the entertainment of Atlantic City, are all within a half-hour drive via the Garden State Parkway; the Jersey Shore communities of Monmouth, Ocean, and Cape May Counties are reachable within an hour. Philadelphia is about an hour away by car, bus, or train, and New York City about two hours by car or bus. Atlantic City International Airport, in neighboring Egg Harbor Township, offers direct flights to several southern cities and single-connection flights to many others.

Our Worship Life

Worship at Saint Mark and All Saints centers on the Holy Eucharist, celebrated predominantly according to Rite II and occasionally Rite I. We gather throughout the week in several distinct ways:

- **Sunday Worship, 9:00 a.m.** — Our principal service, celebrated in person and live-streamed on Facebook.
- **Daily Morning Prayer, 9:30 a.m.** — Offered via Zoom Monday through Saturday. This daily office began on Zoom in March 2020, at the start of the pandemic, and continues today led by clergy and lay participants alike.
- **Mid-Week Worship** — “A Service for Healing with Holy Eucharist,” held Wednesdays at 5:00 p.m. Laying on of hands and anointing are offered to all, alongside prayers for the healing of mind, body, and spirit. Open to everyone — including those who cannot join us on Sundays — it is a quieter, more intimate opportunity to gather in prayer and receive Christ's Body and Blood.

Children, Youth, and Family Life

Faith formation for our youngest members is central to parish life. Programs include:

- **Sunday Kid's Program** — For children in Kindergarten and up, meeting during the 9:00 a.m. service before rejoining the congregation at announcement time. Children explore Bible stories, learn what it means to imitate Jesus, and take part in read-alouds, discussions, games, and crafts. The program runs September through June; a lighter, more playful version called “Fun with Jesus” continues through the summer.
- **Children's Service Sunday** — Held the fourth Sunday of each month, this special service invites children to actively assist in worship and features a sermon or reflection written just for them.
- **Evening Vacation Bible School** — A beloved August tradition — four evenings of faith, music, crafts, games, and fellowship, free and open to children from Kindergarten through sixth grade. This year's theme is “Tropical Trek: Jesus Comes to Seek and Save.”
- **Easter Egg Hunts** — Held after our Easter service, with an egg hunt for younger children and a collaborative treasure hunt for older kids — a parish favorite every spring.

Our Music Ministry

Our Music Program is led by Ellen Junggren, a lifelong church musician who began singing in children's choirs before studying piano, voice, and organ. Ellen holds a Bachelor's degree in Music Education, with a principal in organ, from Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey, and a Master's degree in Organ Performance from Manhattan School of Music, along with two post-graduate certificates in the Orff Schulwerk method of music education. She previously served Lutheran congregations in northern New Jersey — most recently Our Savior Lutheran Church in Pompton Plains and Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Hasbrouck Heights — and retired last June after a long career teaching Kindergarten through third-grade vocal music in Ringwood, New Jersey. Outside of music, Ellen enjoys gardening, knitting, and traveling with her husband, Peter.

Our choir is a small but devoted group that sings nearly every Sunday from September through May, plus all festivals and holidays, drawing from a well-stocked library spanning many musical genres. We worship using the 1982 Hymnal, Lift Every Voice and Sing (LEVAS), and a parish-created pamphlet of contemporary hymns, choosing music with the liturgical calendar in mind while placing strong emphasis on congregational singing. We change our service responses with the liturgical season and sing the Nicene Creed every Sunday, and we are always glad to welcome new choir members — including college students and alumni who return for Christmas and Easter.

Our two-manual Mudler-Hunter organ, tuned and maintained by the Kurz Organ Company, anchors our musical life and worship.

Lay Ministries and Leadership

Saint Mark and All Saints runs on the generosity of parishioners who give their time to sustain the life of the parish:

- **Vestry** — Our governing body helps define and articulate the mission of the congregation, supports

that mission by word and deed, ensures effective organization and planning, manages resources and finances, and selects our priest-in-charge. The Vestry consists of a Senior Warden, a Junior Warden, and ten members, one of whom serves as Treasurer; our Parish Administrative Assistant serves as Vestry Clerk.

- **St. Hilda's Altar Guild** — Members prepare the altar for every service, maintaining linens, silver, brassware, pottery, candles, flowers, and communion elements, as well as special items for feast days.
- **Lectors and Lay Eucharistic Ministers** — Parishioners share the Word of God and lead the Prayers of the People, while Lay Eucharistic Ministers assist in administering Holy Eucharist at every Mass.
- **Acolytes** — Carrying torches and the cross during processions and assisting clergy during the service, our acolytes serve at a range of ages.
- **Ushers** — Often the first friendly face a visitor meets, our ushers help guide parishioners and guests throughout the service.

Christian Formation for Adults

Beyond Sunday worship, we offer a range of opportunities for adults to grow in faith and fellowship:

- **Bible Study** — An online Zoom study running September through June, currently drawing participants from three different parishes.
- **Men of Saint Mark and All Saints** — Meeting the second Tuesday of each month at 4:00 p.m., this group combines Bible study with wide-ranging discussion, hosted by Father Donald Caron.
- **Online Meditation** — A peaceful Thursday gathering at 10:30 a.m. that welcomes participants from across the Diocese and beyond — no experience necessary.
- **SALA Fellowship** — An occasional series in which parishioners with particular knowledge or gifts share them with the wider community.
- **Book Study** — Typically offered during Lent and Advent, past selections have included *Night, Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*, *The Church Cracked Open*, *Christianity and World Religions*, and *Savior: What the Bible Says about the Cross*.

Outreach and Community Life

Ministries of Our Congregation

- **Fellowship Hour** — Every Sunday after the 9:00 a.m. service in the Parish Hall — coffee and tea provided by the parish, with food and desserts brought by sponsoring parishioners each week. It's not unusual for fellowship to stretch on for three hours.
- **ESL Ministry** — Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 4:30–6:00 p.m. Our parishioners join others at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Pleasantville to teach English as a Second Language to the area's sizable Caribbean and Eastern European immigrant communities.
- **Seamen's Church Institute** — Our knitters, crocheters, and sewers provide hats, scarves, and ditty bags to members of the Merchant Marine — last year, we were among the leading contributing parishes in the nation.
- **SMAS Care Team** — A dedicated group of “SMAS Angels” keeps sick and in-need parishioners on a

Prayer List, sends cards, and helps arrange transportation to medical appointments.

- **Peggy's Pantry** — On the third Sunday of each month, parishioners bring non-perishable food and monetary donations for the Community Food Bank of New Jersey, Southern Branch.
- **Angel Tree** — Each Christmas season, a tree in our foyer is adorned with angel tags naming gift wishes for children and adults in the surrounding community.
- **Cardboard Boat Races** — A lighthearted end-of-summer tradition — the Boy Scouts host races at nearby Port Republic Lake, and SMAS builds and mans our own “Holy Rowers” entry.

Community Events Open to the Public

- **Pancake Supper** — Our Shrove Tuesday tradition, complete with Pancake Races that delight children and adults alike.
- **English Tea** — Served in China teacups with an array of English sandwiches and scones.
- **Ice Cream Social** — A crowd favorite featuring vanilla ice cream, every topping imaginable, and outdoor games.

Groups That Call Our Parish Hall Home

- **Art Space** — Mondays, 6:00–8:00 p.m. — open to all, painters and beginners alike.
- **Jersey Shore Fiber Arts Guild** — Third Thursday of the month, 7:00–9:00 p.m. — a newly formed group of knitters, crocheters, weavers, spinners, and quilters.
- **Alcoholics Anonymous** — Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m. and Wednesdays at 4:30 p.m.
- **Boardwalk Chorus** — Wednesdays, 6:00–8:00 p.m. — a men's chorus group.
- **Easter Seals** — Fridays, 10:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.
- **Boy Scouts** — Meeting the third Sunday of the month, chartered by our parish.

Our Financial Health

Alongside the weekly offerings of our congregation, Saint Mark and All Saints is blessed with a cash reserve and an investment trust account. These resources allow us to sustain our worship life and support our outreach ministries well into the future. We are happy to share our full financial statements with clergy applicants upon request.

Our Strengths and Our Path Forward

Saint Mark and All Saints is, above all, a welcoming and inclusive parish — open, hospitable, and accepting of all people. Our family-like culture is built on mutual support and togetherness, and we treasure the relationships that grow out of genuine fellowship and friendship.

Like many traditional American congregations, we have found growth difficult in the years following the pandemic, compounded by the broader trend of religious disaffiliation among post-Boomer generations. Looking ahead, our priority is to attract new members and younger families — a goal closely tied to our desire to strengthen our children's, youth, and family programs, and one that would, in turn, allow us to expand our reach into the wider community.

Seeking Our Next Priest-in-Charge

We are looking for a compassionate and inclusive leader — an energetic communicator who can guide us spiritually, connect meaningfully across generations, and actively engage both our congregation and the wider Galloway community. We hope our next Priest-in-Charge will nurture and grow this parish we love, bringing particular strength in:

- **Enlightened preaching** — A gift for preaching that illuminates Scripture and speaks to daily life.
- **Teaching and formation** — The ability to teach and train parishioners in faith and ministry.
- **Pastoral care** — A genuine, steady presence with parishioners in times of need.
- **Leadership through challenge** — Skill in negotiation and conflict resolution, guiding our community through change with grace.

We invite you to prayerfully consider journeying with us. Saint Mark and All Saints is ready to welcome the next chapter of our shared story — and the leader God is calling to help us write it.